

Japanese Beetle Eradication

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In an effort to eradicate the Japanese Beetle from Utah, the Department of Agriculture and Food has implemented a plan to reduce the number of beetles that hatch this year. This plan involves a two-fold line of defense consisting of both a leaf (foliar) treatment and a ground treatment. Both of these treatments will use pesticides to treat the beetle. When used according to label directions, the following chemicals are considered safe; however, no chemical is without risks.

Here is some relevant information on these pesticides as they relate to human health.

Carbaryl

- **Chemical Family:** Carbamates
- **Trade Names:** Carbamine, Denapon, Dicarbam, Hexavin, Karbaspray, Nac, Ravyon, Septene, Sevin, Tercyl, Tricarnam, Union Carbide 7744
- **Action on Human System:** Reversible changes in acetylcholinesterase enzyme of tissues. Acetylcholinesterase is the most important enzyme required for nerve response and function
- **Internal Exposure:** Headache, dizziness, weakness, shaking, nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea, sweating
- **External Exposure:** Minimal rashes but readily absorbed through the skin; direct contact of the skin or eyes can cause burns
- **Chronic Exposure:** Loss of appetite, weakness, weight loss, and general feeling of sickness
- **Type of Pesticide:** Insecticides, acaricides

Cyfluthrin

- **Chemical Family:** Pyrethrins and Pyrethroids
- **Trade Names:** Baythroid, baythroid H, Attatox, Contur, Laser, Responsar, Solfac, Tempo and Tempo H
- **Action on Human System:** Very low human toxicity
- **Internal Exposure:** Slight toxic reaction
- **External Exposure:** Swelling of mouth and throat, irritating to nose, throat, eyes
- **Chronic Exposure:** No adverse effects are expected from chronic exposure
- **Type of Pesticide:** Insecticides, acaricides

Imidacloprid

- **Chemical Family:** Neonicotinoids
- **Trade Names:** Admire, Condifor, Gaucho, Premier, Premise, Provado, Marathon and Merit
- **Action on Human System:** Very low human toxicity; more effective on insects
- **Internal Exposure:** Slight toxic reaction
- **External Exposure:** Eye reddening
- **Chronic Exposure:** The thyroid is especially sensitive to chronic exposure of moderate concentrations of imidacloprid. At extremely high concentrations, mutagenic (DNA damage) and reproductive effects are observed
- **Type of Pesticide:** Insecticides, acaricides

The general risk of all pesticides comes from ingestion of contaminated foods. Therefore, when eating vegetables or fruits from a garden that has been treated with one or all of these chemicals, please be sure to wash the item(s) with a mild detergent and water thoroughly prior to consuming it or using it for cooking purposes.

There are many products currently on the market that can be purchased for sanitizing foods.